

SKYWAY LANE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING NOTES - September 15, 2009



On September 15, 2009 City of Auburn staff met with residents of the Skyway Lane Neighborhood in the Naults' front yard at 2605 Skyway Lane, to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Staff in Attendance: MAYOR PETE LEWIS, ASST. POLICE CHIEF BOB KARNOFSKI, TRANSPORTATION PLANNER JOE WELSH, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VOLUNTEER ANNA MARSHALL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER DUANNA RICHARDS

Community Members in Attendance: BARBARA & RICK NAULT, FRED ELDER, JANET PRYOR, JOAN & MARK RIBICH, TOM & ANN MARIE MYLAN, CLIFF & ROXANNE LAMB, BILL HARBISON, DAVID DAY, FRANCES BOTELLO, RALPH MARBET AND JON & SHARON KINZEL

Welcome and Introductions

Community Services Manager Duanna Richards welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending and asked City staff to introduce themselves. Mayor Lewis then indicated the primary purpose of the meeting was for the City to listen to the residents' concerns, consider solutions, respond to questions they could answer immediately and identify items for follow up. The City takes notes of the meeting which are then sent out to the attendees.

Mayor's Update

Residents were encouraged to sign up for the Mayor's Update, an e-newsletter Mayor Lewis sends out every Friday about what's taken place in the City during the week, upcoming events, etc. He also uses the listserv to send out alerts about road closures, emergencies, etc. as a way to keep the community informed. Since this is a listserv, if you decide you don't want to continue receiving it you can unsubscribe at any time.

General Questions/Comments

- ***A request was sent asking the City to trim the street trees, but it hasn't been done.*** City staff will check to see where things are at with this.

Public Safety Related Questions/Comments

- ***What can be done about loitering and drunken behavior by individuals hanging out behind AM/PM gas station on Dogwood?***

Residents were encouraged to report everything to 9-1-1. You should call 9-1-1 whenever you have an emergency, feel something suspicious is going on, need to speak with an officer or file a report (online reporting is also available if you would prefer to file your report that way at

www.auburnwa.gov/Emergency/Police/Citizen_Online_Police_Reporting.asp). **PLEASE**

NOTE: If calling from a cell phone you need to ask for an "Auburn Call Receiver."

Auburn shares ownership of the 9-1-1 system with other South King County cities and the calls go to a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line

when making non-emergency calls. When you call 9-1-1 it will be answered by a "Call Receiver." The Call Receiver will determine whether or not your call is an emergency to be handled right away or to have an officer make contact with you to file a non-emergency report. They will ask questions which are specifically designed to obtain information so that the proper response can be made for your call.

If you want to know what the officer finds out be sure to let the Call Receiver know you DO want to be contacted by the officer when they've completed their investigation.

In addition to emergency issues, residents should also call 9-1-1 for non-emergency issues such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc. An alternative is to report them via the City website. The link is under Online Services at the top of the page and is called Online Citizen Report (half way down):
www.auburnwa.gov/Business/public_works/Online_Citizen_Report.asp.

Mayor Lewis explained that Police Officers will not be found sitting in the Police Station because they are always in their patrol cars out in the community. The cars are equipped as mobile offices; they have several computers so information can be quickly accessed.

- ***What can be done about mail theft?***

Mail is being stolen from the mail boxes out on the street while residents are at work. This has resulted in identity theft issues for some of them. The Mayor responded that mail theft is handled directly by the post office; call the postal inspector at (253) 887-9290 if you're experiencing mail theft.

- ***Can the City put a fence up on City right-of-way at the end of the street to limit pedestrian access?***

Kids are entering the neighborhood from the Casino side at the end of the street and partying. There used to be a fence there that was taken down by the King George family. City staff will check into the possibility of putting a fence up along the sidewalk area at the end of Skyway Lane to limit trespassing from the Casino side.

- ***A car window was bashed in recently; some residents are intimidated to call 9-1-1. Is there anything else they can do?***

If you think "maybe I should call 9-1-1 about this," you should. But another thing you can do is set up a Block Watch; once the group is formed Community Programs Officer Andy Gould will come out to do the formal training on what to watch for, how to react and how to get neighborhood participation. Block Watch is built on the concept of neighbors watching out for each other because you know better than anyone else who belongs in your neighborhood and who doesn't.

It is recommended that Block Watch groups get together at least once a quarter. A gathering could include hosting a National Night Out (NNO) party which takes place annually on the first Tuesday in August. NNO provides an opportunity to increase awareness and safety in the neighborhood; the Mayor and Councilmembers take part in NNO every year.

- ***Auburn Police Department Citizen's Academy***

The Citizen's Academy is an 11-week program and the classes are free! Participants meet once each week from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. to learn about and interact with Police Department employees, from the Chief to the Volunteer Program Coordinator. Topics of discussion include K-9, Narcotics, Investigations, Firearms/Officer Survival, Records Management, Traffic Enforcement, and Patrol, to name just a few.

If you are interested in attending the Auburn Police Department Citizen's Academy, you may stop by the Police Department to pick up an application. Business office hours are: Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., closed Sundays and Holidays. Or you may call (253) 288-3147, leave your name and phone number, and someone from the Police Department will return your call and answer questions.

You can also complete the application online, print and return it to the address listed or drop it off at the Auburn Police Department in the Auburn Regional Justice Center.

The next Citizen's Academy is scheduled for March 2010.

- ***Police Coverage***

Auburn has 102 commissioned Police officers, 58 of which are assigned to patrol the city's six Police sectors. There are at least six officers and a Police Sergeant on patrol at any given time covering 212 miles of roads, serving 67,000 people in two counties that are divided by two rivers. All Police calls are prioritized with threat to life or property first.

- ***Online Crime Mapping***

The City of Auburn launched an online crime mapping tool that allows citizens to view reported criminal activity throughout the city with near real-time data. The service is provided by CrimeReports.com and is free to the public.

Using this website, citizens can get easy to read incident crime maps from data that is uploaded directly from the Auburn Police Department's activity reports. Crime incident data typically includes: Incident type; date; location; distance from citizen's address; event identification/case number; and/or brief crime incident description. The reported location of registered sex offenders will also be provided on the map.

Citizens can also sign up to receive automatic daily, weekly or monthly email alerts if/when crimes occur near their home, office, local school, etc. and tools such as filters and analytics will allow citizens to search for specific crimes in their area, or to view trends via charts and graphs.

CrimeReports.com can be accessed via the City's website (www.auburnwa.gov/crimereports). This enhancement, coupled with the already existing online police reporting service that was launched in 2007 allowing citizens to file non-emergency reports, is one more way that the City is using technology to increase public safety and awareness.

For more information on these services, contact the City of Auburn Police Department at (253) 931-3080.

- ***Fireworks have been a big issue in this neighborhood, from going off at all hours to the mess that's left for weeks afterwards.***

The City doesn't have jurisdiction for fireworks discharged on the reservation. If illegal fireworks are being discharged in the neighborhood residents need to call 9-1-1. When the City receives lots of phone calls in one neighborhood they'll put an extra emphasis patrol there. Things are getting better; the Tribe and City have been working together to address fireworks related issues and the number of fireworks stands has been reduced from over 100 down to 52 this year.

Residents can refer concerns about clean up of the fireworks stands area to Virginia Cross, a member of the Tribal Council.

Emergency Preparedness Related Questions/Comments

- Emergency Preparedness Volunteer Anna Marshall gave a brief presentation regarding how the Block Watch program has been combined with the Map Your Neighborhood program (MYN). The MYN program helps to get neighbors together and meet with purpose; neighbors are taught how to get prepared before an emergency happens as a neighborhood; residents do some hands on mapping of skills and resources that are readily available in their own neighborhood.

Citizens can also participate in a FREE CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) training to prepare their homes, families and neighborhoods in case of an emergency; this is a free eight week class series where first aid, triage and survival skills are taught.

Transportation Related Questions/Comments

- ***The Dead End sign as you turn onto Skyway Lane isn't visible; can it be moved?***
There are a lot of cars coming down the street looking for a back way into the Casino because the sign is posted so high it isn't visible to traffic coming down Dogwood. Transportation staff will review the Dead End sign location to determine if relocation will improve sign visibility.
- ***There is a lot of speeding on Skyway Lane; would the City consider putting in speed cushions? (There was almost unanimous support for this.)***
Transportation staff will evaluate the situation and make a recommendation regarding the best way to address speeding in this neighborhood.
- ***Would the City consider installing a traffic circle at the intersection of Dogwood and Skyway Lane?***
Residents expressed appreciation for the striping on Dogwood and said it has helped reduce some of the speeding. But they'd like the City to also consider installing a traffic circle at the intersection of Dogwood and Skyway Lane to help slow traffic down. Transportation staff will evaluate the situation to determine if a traffic circle would be appropriate at that intersection.
- ***Why hasn't the sidewalk been completed on Riverwalk Drive?***
The section without sidewalk is owned by the Muckleshoot Tribe and not under the City's jurisdiction.

- ***What are the cameras for at Auburn Way South and Dogwood? Is it part of the photo enforcement system?***

The City currently does not have cameras at Auburn Way South and Dogwood.

Temporary cameras may have been installed at the Dogwood intersection by the City's annual traffic counting vendor. Auburn Way South and Riverwalk Drive has an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) camera that was installed a few years ago to synchronize the traffic signals along that stretch of road and help mitigate the impacts of traffic resulting from the White River Amphitheatre.

Mayor Lewis explained Auburn's PhotoSAFE system; the law states these cameras are only allowed to be installed at warranted railway intersections, in school zones and at certain traffic intersections. Mayor Lewis noted there has been a 40% reduction of accidents and not one fatality accident in the PhotoSAFE intersections since the cameras were installed. It was also clarified that while gross receipts from the system were over \$900,000 in 2008; costs to pay for installing and administering the system were over \$740,000. The Auburn City Council took action to ensure the net proceeds from PhotoSAFE would go towards neighborhood traffic calming improvements in Auburn's communities; approximately \$165,000 has gone toward local traffic calming improvements such as stop signs, speed cushions, traffic circles, and school zone flashing lights in 2008.

- ***Can the City change the left turn signal from Auburn Way South onto Dogwood back the way it used to be?***

Recently the left turn lane from Auburn Way South onto Dogwood was changed and the green turn arrow is no longer followed by the solid green with yield capability. This reduces the number of people who can turn left there during the cycle, creating a long wait. Transportation staff revised the left turn phasing after the construction of the casino parking garage. This revision was executed as an operational and safety consideration for the increased traffic. Staff will review increasing the green time allotted to the left turn movements; however, the phasing will remain.

Summary of Solutions Discussed/Action Items

1. City staff will follow up on request to have street trees trimmed.
2. City will determine if we can put a fence up on City right of way at end of Skyway Lane to deter trespassing from the Casino area.
3. Police will work with neighborhood to develop a Block Watch.
4. Transportation staff will review the Dead End sign location to determine if relocation will improve sign visibility.
5. Transportation staff will evaluate the intersection of Dogwood and Skyway Lane to determine if appropriate for installation of a traffic circle.
6. Transportation staff will evaluate speeds on Skyway Lane and determine if and where appropriate to install speed cushions.
7. Transportation staff will review increasing the green time allotted to the left turn movements; however, the phasing will remain

Community Services Team Contact Information:

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